



Nov. 20, 2009

## 26 Texas schools nominated for 2010 Blue Ribbon honors

AUSTIN – Commissioner Robert Scott today announced the nomination of 26 Texas public schools for the 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools recognition. The award honors schools for academic excellence and making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

For the past 27 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 5,800 of America's most successful schools, including almost 500 Texas schools. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

- schools that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests;
- schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests.

The nominated schools were recommended by an intra-agency committee that examined student achievement statistics for the more than 8,000 public school and charter campuses in the state. The schools selected have demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap and each school has an economically disadvantaged population of 40 percent or greater. Schools nominated for the award serve as models of best practices for schools across the state.

The nominated schools will now complete a rigorous application process through the U.S. Department of Education. Announcements of the award winners will be made in September 2010.

Schools that receive the prestigious award are recognized at the Blue Ribbon School conference in Washington, D.C.

The schools nominated for the Dramatic Improvement category are:

**Austin ISD** – Dr. Meria J. Carstarphen, superintendent  
Dorothy A. Linder Elementary – Beverley Odom, principal

**Beaumont ISD** – Dr. Carrol Thomas, superintendent  
Ogden Elementary – Wayne Wells, principal

**Bloomington ISD\*** – Bradley S Williams, superintendent  
Bloomington Elementary – Israel Salinas, principal

**Corpus Christi ISD** – D. Scott Elliff, superintendent  
Marvin Baker Middle – Darla Reid, principal

**Houston ISD** – Dr. Terry B. Grier, superintendent  
Albert Sidney Johnston Middle – David Wheat, principal

**Hurst–Eules–Bedford ISD** – Dr. Gene Buinger, superintendent  
Central Junior High – Jonathan James, principal  
Hurst Junior High – Leslie Guajardo, principal

**Jacksonville ISD\*** – Dr. Joe Wardell, superintendent  
Fred Douglass Elementary – Amber Penn, principal

**Richardson ISD** – Dr. Carolyn G. Bukhair, superintendent  
Lake Highlands Junior High – Veronica Escalante, principal

**Scurry–Rosser ISD\*** – Chris Couch, superintendent  
Scurry-Rosser Middle – Jason Turner, principal

The schools nominated for the High Performance category are:

**Alief ISD\*** – Dr. Louis B. Stoerner, superintendent  
Alief High – Greg Freeman, principal

**Dallas ISD** – Dr. Michael Hinojosa, superintendent  
H.S. Thompson Learning Center – Kamalia Cotton, principal  
James B. Bonham Elementary – Sandra Fernandez, principal

**Glasscock County ISD\*** – Steve Long, superintendent  
Garden City High – Misty Kinnibrugh, principal

**Houston ISD** – Dr. Terry B. Grier, superintendent  
J.P. Cornelius Elementary – Karen Jackson, principal  
James Burrus Elementary – Jesse Woods, Jr., principal  
Oak Forest Elementary – Scott Pollack, principal  
Briarmeadow Middle – Peter Heinze, principal

**Jacksonville ISD\*** – Dr. Joe Wardell, superintendent  
West Side Elementary – Sandi Jones, principal

**La Vega ISD\*** – Dr. Sharon M. Shields, superintendent  
La Vega Elementary – Chris Borland, principal

**Lone Oak ISD\*** – Eddie White, superintendent  
Lone Oak Elementary – Judy Steadham, principal

**Mason ISD\*** – Matthews Mason Underwood, superintendent  
Mason High – Pam Kruse, principal

**Richardson ISD** – Dr. Carolyn G. Bukhair, superintendent  
Dover Elementary – Brona Comeaux–Hudson, principal

**South Texas ISD** – Dr. Marla M. Guerra, superintendent  
South Texas High School for Health Professions – Barbara Heater, principal

**The Varnett School\*** – M. Annette Cluff, superintendent  
The Varnett School – East Campus – Twilet Alexander, principal

**United ISD\*** – Roberto J. Santos, superintendent  
Trautmann Elementary – Cynthia Rodriguez, principal

\* This is the first Blue Ribbon School nomination for the district.